

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important news items occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

# WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1927.

Governments, in their own estimation, are always a system of perfection.

WHOLE NO. 823.

## "YELLOW DOG" IS CLEAN OPPOSITION

The "yellow dog" is the meanest form of trade union opposition.

This scheme has been approved by the United States Supreme Court, under the plea of "sacredness of contract."

The "yellow dog" is based on the necessities of job-seekers who must agree not to join a trade union as the price for earning a living for themselves and dependents.

The "yellow dog" violates elemental justice; also the first provision of contract law—that a signed agreement, if legal, shall be devoid of coercion.

The latest "yellow dog" is in New York City, where a court enjoined workers employed by the Interborough Rapid Transit Company from affiliating with the legitimate Street Car Men's Union.

When these workers accepted employment they were compelled to join a company "union" and sign a "yellow dog."

Following the United States Supreme Court in the case of Hitchman vs. United Mine Workers

(Dec. 10, 1917), the New York court says, "a contract is a contract" as it orders the car men to observe their "yellow dog."

It is no answer to say that these workers must observe such a contract. Courts always insist that when a contract is signed no unfair advantage must be taken of either signatory. The one exception is when employers want their "yellow dog" enforced. Courts ignore an absence of mutuality and the conditions of workers when they were compelled to sign.

What court will say that a man seeking shelter and bread for his loved ones is a free agent when presented a "yellow dog"?

It is worse than immoral to require the necessities of a worker who seeks employment under such conditions and who is compelled to pledge that he will waive a legal and a moral right to secure employment.

When courts uphold the "yellow dog" they wield a two-edged sword. Not only do they aid employers in debasing workers, but by ignoring a fundamental of contract law they aid the workers who would bring an essential branch of government into contempt.

## MINDS CHANGE SLOWLY

In reply to a questionnaire by a New York electrical trade magazine, a majority of the leaders of this industry oppose the five-day week for any purpose other than a temporary measure to check over-production.

This industry leader's position that the development of industry justifies the shorter work week. While the employers say they favor a "temporary" reduction for this reason, new processes of production will be developed which will change a "temporary" viewpoint to permanent acceptance.

## MUSSOLINI SPLITTING ITALY; BOSSES PAY BLACK SHIRTS

New York, Jan. 15.—The Fascist motto is paid for by big money. Industrialists, declared Prof. Gaetano Salvemini, historian and former member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, who is now in this city after an exile in England, following his attacks on Mussolini.

Professor Salvemini bitterly attacked the present regime in Italy. He said the famous "march on Rome," when Mussolini seized the Italian government, was not a revolution to destroy Bolshevism, as is popularly supposed, but was a military coup against democratic institutions.

"It is not true that Mussolini and the Fascist saved Italy from Bolshevism," he said. "The Italian people had already begun to work out their own salvation, thanks to their good sense, when the Fascist arrived to coerce it with fire and sword, substituting for the post-war neurosis, which was already on the wane, a new and more deadly disease."

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## IMMIGRANT QUOTA CHANGED NEXT JULY

Washington, Jan. 15.—Immigrants to be admitted to the country annually after next July 1 will be reduced 11,126, according to a report sent to the Senate by President Harding.

The Departments of State, Commerce and Labor prepared the report as a guide to the President in his proclamation before April 1 in which he fixes, according to law, the quotas for each European country after July 1 on the basis of the national origin of immigrants in this country instead of on the present basis of the foreign birth of population from the various countries in the United States in 1909.

Under the new system there will be a general shifting, with the Irish Free State allowed only 18,862 a year and Great Britain and northern Ireland 73,039, as against 34,007. Germany's quota will be reduced from 51,277 to 23,425; Italy's from 6,091 to 3,948; and Poland's from 5,882 to 4,978.

The new system would increase from 3,258 to 9,561, for Norway from 2,267 to 4,659, and for Denmark 1,444 to 2,485.

The new system would reduce the quotas for the other countries listed in the report follow:

Austria, 1,468 and 785; Czechoslovakia, 2,248 and 3,073; France, 3,837 and 3,954; the Netherlands, 2,421 and 1,494; Switzerland, 1,188 and 1,081; Japan, 534, 777 and 671.

All countries would be permitted a minimum quota of 100.

## SENATOR WANTS LIGHT TEXTILE MILL BARON

ON FOREIGN BUSINESS

Washington, Jan. 15.—The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations will investigate the terms upon which American textile mills are operating in foreign countries, if the Senate ratifies the proposed agreement with the Foreign Textile Company.

Senator Wheeler, introduced by Mr. Wheeler, American investments abroad are amounting to billions of dollars and are alleged in a number of instances to be secured through concessions from foreign governments.

"Contracting and engineering and duties of holders of such concessions," the resolution states, "are of the most important part of the foreign relations of this government."

The Senate committee would investigate: (1) the source and sanction of such concessions; (2) the precedents and traditions of the Government in its relations with individual employees. None of these plans are more Christian than the others; they are broader under circumstances and some work better under others.

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## VIEW OF WALL STREET

NICARAGUA DEAL

New York, Jan. 15.—S. J. Fontana, financial writer, makes this frank comment on the Nicaraguan situation and the President's message on that subject:

"While the President's message to Congress on the Nicaraguan situation has a reassuring effect, as all of his market letters do, there has been a strong feeling in Wall Street that there is a deeper purpose than the President himself admits in intervention in the Central American republic, which is regarded as one of the weak points of the United States as well as of the metropolitan bankers."

Wilson's message through the Institute suggests that possibly it may be necessary for American capital to build another canal, and that the high cost of the Panama Canal is the most logical. It suggests that the canal may not be built within a few years, our Government would fall short of its responsibilities if it did not look to the future.

The question is whether it is to be future world commerce and the human welfare of all peoples engaged in foreign trade, and the United States through the Canal is going at a pace that suggests that a further waterway

is a challenge to the loyalty of the election by William B. Wilson, which the former Secretary of Labor, and undoubtedly the majority of the people, according to the feeling that it is in the interest of the American people.

The bankers also feel that way about it.

## TEXTILE MILL BARON

SCORNS PEACE OFFER

Washington, N. J., Jan. 15.—Julius F. Felt, president of the Foreign Textile Company, has made the suggestion of a labor peace offer to the workers of the company.

The Foreign Textile Company is a mixture of cant and misstatements. The writer lectures workers on the need for "peace" and "harmony" and no distinction between individual bargaining, his "company union" and regular trade unionism.

"Throughout the United States," he says, "we find industrial relations in a state of chaos. The workers are the best paid and the most contented in the world. They are contented with their present conditions, with their employment representation and some of their respective individual employees. None of these plans are more Christian than the others; they are broader under circumstances and some work better under others."

The textile strikers point to the changed attitude of the writer of this article, who is no longer arrogant, as some months ago, when an article was made to enforce a wage cut. The long strike of the textile workers have forced this industrialist to assume a paternal posture.

## CIGAR MAKERS SUPPORT

PORTO RICANS' STRIKE

New York, Jan. 15.—At a meeting of organized cigar makers in this city plans were perfected to give support to the six-months' strike of 1,500 Porto Rican cigar makers against the cigar makers of the United States. The strike is endorsed by the Cigar Makers' Association of America.

The workers have made every effort to aid differences. Meetings have been held throughout Porto Rico and because of debasing conditions, public opinion is supporting the workers but the company will only accept surrender.

Cigar makers in New York City and vicinity have made weekly contributions to the strikers.

It is said the company has taken exception to the Cigar Makers' Association, which operates a number of shops in Pennsylvania, and has refused to believe that an attempt will be made to have cigars made in this country.

## CHARITY PAYS BILLS

FOR INJURED WORKERS

New York, Jan. 15.—Many workers of the garment industry in this city are being paid by charity instead of by insurance. The workers are being paid by charity instead of by insurance.

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## MASS ACTION IN INDUSTRY

WIPES OUT SINGLE UNITS

Washington, Jan. 15.—"The individual manufacturer or business man is no longer the fighting unit in industry. He can't stand up under the competitive onslaught launched by whole industries," said Merle Thorpe, editor of the Nation's Business, in a luncheon talk to business men in this city.

The single manufacturer is facing a new war of the giants and his habit of fighting is as obsolete as a one-pounder cannon and as useless as a popgun, the speaker said.

"The new order has caused more old houses of business, established for a hundred years or more, to disappear over night, while new ones spring into prominence in an equally short time."

"Electricity is grappling with ice for the control of the refrigerating industry; lumber with the pig iron, cement, brick, stone and 25 other substitutes; oil is fighting with the control of heating and power, silk is struggling with cotton, linen, wool and even wood; the automobile has

## WARE'S ELECTION CHALLENGED;

SENATE WILL PROBE CHARGES

Washington, Jan. 15.—The Senate has ordered an investigation of the election of William S. Ware. This action is a challenge to the legality of the election by William B. Wilson, which the former Secretary of Labor, and undoubtedly the majority of the people, according to the feeling that it is in the interest of the American people.

The Wilson statement charges that Ware was not legally elected in the November election. It is alleged that Ware was chosen by a majority of the votes, but that he was not legally elected. The Senate will probe the charges.

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## WORKERS SHOULD BE PAID

NO MATTER HOW INJURED

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 15.—In legislation which would include occupational diseases in the State compensation law, the Michigan Legislature has taken a step which makes no difference to the workers who are injured in the time meeting all other compensation laws.

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## HIGH COURT WILL HEAR

SACCO-VANZETTI PLEA

Boston, Jan. 15.—Chief Justice Roger of the Massachusetts State Supreme Court has granted a writ of habeas corpus for Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, convicted of murder, further to prepare argument against a plea from Judge Thayer's refusal to grant a new trial.

Under the law such appeal heads the list of cases to be heard by the Supreme Court, but only one writ was granted an extension of time to prepare his argument.

Sacco and Vanzetti are accused of murdering a paymaster and guard. The United States secret service men made affidavits that they aided the state to secure a conviction.

The hearing for a new trial, which Judge Webster refused, former United States secret service men made affidavits that they aided the state to secure a conviction.

## COAL MEN PROFIT

BY MINERS' STRIKE

Washington, Jan. 15.—A Senate investigation reveals that coal dealers in the District of Columbia advanced their sale prices more than 100 percent since increased during the anthracite strike last winter.

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## SMART ACCOUNTANTS

CAN CONCEAL PROFITS

Washington, Jan. 15.—Senator Frazier of North Dakota can't understand why so many textile and metal industries can pay dividends and increase stock dividends while have no profit on which income taxes are paid.

In 1924 certain textile firms paid more than \$40,000,000 in cash dividends, but reported no profit to the Internal Revenue Bureau.

In the same period certain metal firms paid more than \$23,000,000 in cash dividends and \$3,000,000 in stock dividends, but they reported no profit.

The Frazier resolution authorizes the Federal Tariff Commission to investigate the costs and profits of these industries, methods and profits and losses of these concerns.

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## ARMY WORKERS

OPPOSE RED PARLEY

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## STATE COMPENSATION

FAVORED BY WORKERS

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 15.—The New York State Federation of Labor Unions has urged the State Assembly to establish a monopoly of workers' compensation.

The Federation will urge an amendment to the State Constitution to establish a monopoly of workers' compensation.

## WORLD LAID GOSSIPS

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 15.—"Fashy" world gossip is being spread by the Nashville Press, a newspaper which is a

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## JUDGE LANDIS' AWARD

HANDS ANOTHER JOINT

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## WILL KILL FIVE-DAY WEEK

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## BUILDING EMPLOYERS AND 5-DAY WEEK

In American Preference

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